

# INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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report describing the organization  
of the Lodz City PZPR (Polish United Workers Party) Committee.

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1. The Lodz City Committee of the Communist Party (Lodzki Komitert Partji) was equal in status to a voivodship Party committee (Wojewodzki Komitet Partji) because of the special administrative position of the city of Lodz, which was similar to that of Warsaw. The offices of the Lodz Committee were located at 107 Aleja Kosciuski, in a three-story building constructed after the war. Prior to 1956, between 120 and 130 people had worked in these offices. After Gomulka's assumption to power, however, this number was reduced to about 50 and remained at that level thereafter. The many rooms which thus became vacant were turned over to the Party Training Center

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(Osrodek Szkolenia Partyjnego) and the Evening University for Marxism-Leninism, two institutions which had previously been housed on other premises in the city.

2. Along with the reduction of staff, an organizational retrenchment was effected, resulting in the dissolution of the Committee's trade department (Wydzial Handlu), culture department (Wydzial Oswiaty), and transportation department (Wydzial Komunikacji). The duties of the trade and transportation departments were transferred to the economic department (Wydzial Ekonomiczny), and those of the cultural department to the propaganda department (Wydzial Propagandy). Since this retrenchment, no further organizational changes were made. In 1958, therefore, the Lodz City Party Committee consisted of the following departments:

a. Organization department (Wydzial Organizacyjny), the most important of the departments. All the other departments were subordinate to it in matters concerning work among Party members and activists (Aktyw). The duties of the organization department included: organization of meetings and consultations in the framework of the committee proper, organization of Party meetings in institutions and factories, organization of various Party

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campaigns and operations (national days, elections, etc.), as well as the admission of new Party members.

b. Economic department, which supervised the execution of the government's economic policy in the Lodz area. Accordingly, it had a say in the management of industrial plants, institutions and commercial agencies during all stages of operations, from planning to final processing.

c. Propaganda department, which, in addition to its agit-prop work proper, was also in charge of training Party personnel, supervision and direction of cultural activities, as well as general and physical education. It was composed of two sections: an education and culture section and a mass organizations section; it was the only department which retained its subdivisions after the retrenchment of 1956.

d. Control Commission (Komisja Kontroli Partyjnej), an independent body directly subordinate to its counterpart at the Central Committee in Warsaw. Its official duty is to assure the integrity of the Party.

3. The supreme body of the Lodz City Committee is the Plenum, to which all departments were subordinate. It convened from time to

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time as required or to decide on some particular issue. It lay down the general policy to be followed by the committee between plenary sessions and decided on specific matters if it was convened for an extraordinary session.

4. The second body which ranked above the departments was the Executive Committee (Ekzekutywa Komitetu), consisting of about 15 members elected by the Plenum. The Executive Committee, which met more frequently than the Plenum, directed the execution of principal decisions taken by the latter.

5. A third body controlling the everyday work of the City Committee was the Secretariat (Sekretariat), which was composed of four members: the First Secretary, and the Secretaries of the Organization, Economic Affairs and Propaganda Departments.

6. There were six Ward Party Committees (Dzielnicowe Komitety Partyjne) operating under the authority of the Lodz City Committee, whose status corresponded to that of District Party Committees (Powiatowe Komitety Partyjne) in a regular voivodship Party organization. The jurisdiction of the Ward Committees extended over the corresponding administrative wards of the city: Srodmiescie, Baluty, Polesie, Ruda, Chojny, and Widzew. In October 1956 stringent

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retrenchment measures were carried out in the Ward Committees, comparable to those in the City Committee: personnel was reduced to one-third of its previous number and organization subdivisions, i.e., sections, were abolished. The strength of personnel varied in the individual Committees according to the character of the ward and the number of existing Party cells; the average establishment was 12-13 persons.

7. The Party activists were mobilized on a large scale only for special operations, such as elections or strike-breaking. Apart from such occasions, the activists work only in their respective Party cells, in accordance with individual duty directives. During the events of October 1956 there was a large activist organization operating in Lodz. It consisted mainly of industrial workers who believed in Gomulka's ability to improve the prevailing situation and his power to pursue his own course. These men willingly responded to the appeal of the Party and were encouraged to some extent by sympathetic Western broadcasts, particularly those of [ ] In 1958 most of these activists were disillusioned with Gomulka's performance; only a minority were willing to explain away his failure on the basis of Poland's geographical position. Gomulka's popularity

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among activists and Party members in general had dropped considerably. When he visited Lodz on 22 July 1958 for a military parade, he was received with marked coolness, in contrast to his reception in the city in October 1956. Bitterness toward Gomulka and his government was particularly evident among the Lodz textile workers, who felt discriminated against, with regard to wages, in comparison to other sectors of industry.

8. In 1958 the activist organization in Lodz was limited in numbers and its members were not devoted to their tasks. Neither could they be relied upon, for most of them did not identify themselves with the Party's policies and means of execution. Although they regarded their duties as a mere formality, they nevertheless continued to belong to the activist organization for material advantages and for the sake of their careers.

#### Personalities

9. Karol Krajski was Secretary for Economic Affairs of the Lodz City Party Committee from before October 1956 until the end of 1958. At that time he was appointed department head at a ministry in Warsaw.

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10. Michalina Tatarkowna-Majskowska, female, has been First Secretary of the Lodz City Party Committee since before October 1956.

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